

### 39. (*Prosopis velutina*) / *Vachellia constricta* (*Larrea tridentata* - *Senegalia greggii*) Intermittently Flooded Shrubland Association (P)

(Velvet mesquite) / Whitethorn acacia (Creosote - Catclaw acacia) Intermittently Flooded Shrubland Association (P)

This shrubland community is characterized by a sparse (<10% cover) canopy (>2 m) of velvet mesquite (*Prosopis velutina*) and a dense (20–40 [60]% cover) shrub layer (0.5–2 m) dominated by whitethorn acacia (*Vachellia constricta*), with common associates creosote (*Larrea tridentata*) and catclaw acacia (*Senegalia greggii*). Velvet mesquite (*P. velutina*) is a consistent (1.0) component, typically present as large (4 m) trees along the margins of the watercourse, with cover of around 6%. Yellow paloverde (*Parkinsonia microphylla*) and blue paloverde (*Parkinsonia florida*) are sparse (1–2% cover), inconsistent (0.5 and 0.4) associates that can co-occur or occasionally replace velvet mesquite (*P. velutina*) in the canopy. At the Tucson Mountain District (TMD), desert ironwood (*Olneya tesota*) is an occasional (0.57) associate tree that, when present, provides cover of up to 5%. The shrub layer is consistently (1.0) dominated by large (up to 3 m) whitethorn acacia (*V. constricta*) that can form dense thickets along and within the watercourse. Overall, this species provides consistent cover throughout, with an average around 20%. The remainder of the shrub layer is composed of a consistent (>0.75) mix of creosote (*L. tridentata*) and catclaw acacia (*S. greggii*), with an average cover of 6% for each species. The field layer (<0.5 m) is extremely sparse (<5%), without any consistent dominants or common associates.

#### Common species

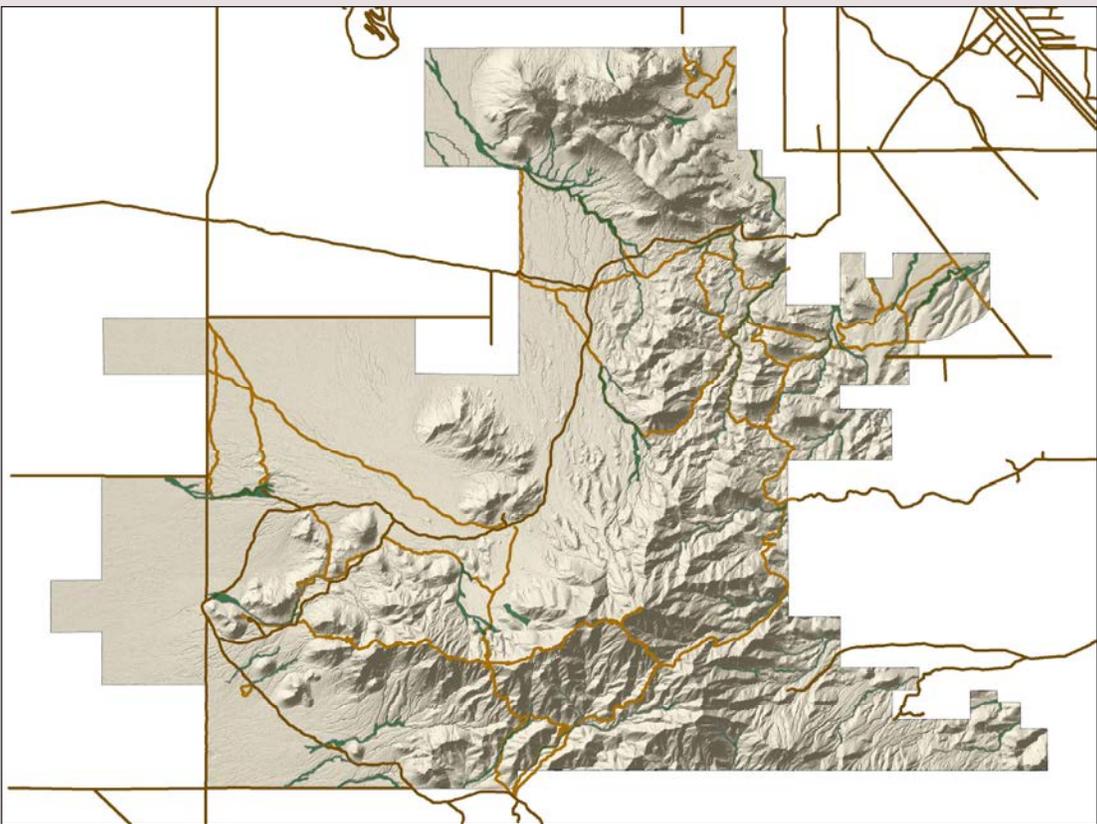
- *Prosopis velutina*
- *Vachellia constricta*
- *Larrea tridentata*
- *Senegalia greggii*

This community covers 2.6% (265 ha/655 ac) of the TMD. It is widespread throughout the alluvial fans. It is restricted to low-angle (<5%), typically north-flowing washes that bisect the broad alluvial fans and low hills from 820 to 935 meters (2,690–3,067 ft). The surface cover is characterized by deep, well-drained soils that, within the watercourse, are dominated by fine gravel and sand. The adjacent slopes are more commonly bare soil.

This association is one of five found in both the TMD and the Rincon Mountain District.



Tucson Mountain District, Saguaro National Park



### 39. (*Prosopis velutina*) / *Vachellia constricta* (*Larrea tridentata* - *Senegalia greggii*) Intermittently Flooded Shrubland Association (P)

(Velvet mesquite) / Whitethorn acacia (Creosote - Catclaw acacia) Intermittently Flooded Shrubland Association (P)

This xeroriparian shrubland community is characterized by a sparse (<10% cover) canopy (>2 m) of velvet mesquite (*Prosopis velutina*) and a dense (20–40 [60]% cover) shrub layer (0.5–2 m) dominated by whitethorn acacia (*Vachellia constricta*), with common associates creosote (*Larrea tridentata*) and catclaw acacia (*Senegalia greggii*). Velvet mesquite (*P. velutina*) is a consistent (1.0) component, typically present as large (4 m) trees along the margins of the watercourse with cover of around 6%. Yellow paloverde (*Parkinsonia microphylla*) and blue paloverde (*Parkinsonia florida*) are sparse (1–2% cover), inconsistent (0.5 and 0.4) associates that can co-occur or occasionally replace velvet mesquite (*P. velutina*) in the canopy. The shrub layer is consistently (1.0) dominated by large (up to 3 m) whitethorn acacia (*V. constricta*) that can form dense thickets along and within the watercourse. Overall, this species provides consistent cover throughout, with an average of around 20%. The remainder of the shrub layer is composed of a consistent (>0.75) mix of creosote (*L. tridentata*) and catclaw acacia (*S. greggii*), with an average cover of 6% for each species. The field layer (<0.5 m) is extremely sparse (<5% cover), without any consistent dominants or common associates.

#### Common species

- *Prosopis velutina*
- *Vachellia constricta*
- *Larrea tridentata*
- *Senegalia greggii*

This community covers 0.6% (152 ha/376 ac) of the Rincon Mountain District (RMD). At the RMD, it primarily occurs near the Douglas Spring trailhead and the Cactus Forest Loop Road. It is restricted to low-angle (<5%), typically north-flowing washes that bisect the broad alluvial fans and low hills from 820 to 935 meters (2,690–3,067 ft.). The surface cover is characterized by deep, well-drained soils that, within the watercourse, are dominated by fine gravel and sand while the adjacent slopes are more commonly bare soil.

This association is one of five found in both the RMD and the Tucson Mountain District.



Rincon Mountain District, Saguaro National Park

